(a) whether there is a plan to make new PRS at Ambali Road station situated at Ahmedabad-Viramgam rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These are provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload at Ambali Road railway station is not high enough to warrant this level of investment at present.

Railway projects in NER

4098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail projects taken up by Government in the States of North Eastern Region particularly in Assam during the current year;

(b) the details and present status of such projects, project-wise; and

(c) the time by when such projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) New Guwahati-Digaru patch doubling (29.81 kms) has been included in budget, 2007-08 at a cost of Rs. 96.32 crore. The work would be taken up once Budget is passed.

(c) No target for completion of the project has been fixed.

Catering contracts

4099. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new catering contracts were given during last three years, all over the country;

(b) what method of selection was adopted; and

(c) how many new stalls for newspapers and other consumer goods were allowed on the railway platforms all over the country during last three years, alongwith the details thereof, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rail link with Bangladesh

†4100. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enter into an agreement for railway services with Bangladesh;

(b) whether the railway agreements signed earlier have been implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the outline of the new agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There are already rail links between India and Bangladesh through the following five routes:

Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Singhabad (India)-Rohahpur (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge on Indian side and Metre Gauge on Bangladesh side.

Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)—Metre Gauge.

Presently only goods train services are running between India and Bangladesh through the first three Broad Gauge routes. Radhikapur-Birol route has remained suspended since 01.04.2005 due to Broad -gauging on Indian side while the track on Birol-Parbatipur section in Bangladesh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi